

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (**currently amended**). Self-adhesive protective sheet for the temporary protection of freshly painted surfaces, having a backing comprising a thermoplastic film, with a self-adhesive layer of butyl rubber, the isoprene content of the butyl rubber being up to 1.8 mole per cent, wherein said butyl rubber is blended with elastomers selected from the group consisting of polyisobutylenes **having a number average molecular weight of 120,000 to 425,000 g/mol**, polyolefin copolymers, polybutenes, hydrogenated block copolymers of styrene and dienes and acrylate copolymers, in an amount of up to 20 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of butyl rubber.

Claim 2 (previously presented). Self-adhesive protective sheet according to Claim 1, wherein the butyl rubber is a starbranched type and/or contains pendant double bonds.

Claim 3 (previously presented). Self-adhesive protective sheet according to Claim 1, wherein the self-adhesive layer is blended with one or more additives selected from the group consisting of tackifiers, plasticizers, organic or inorganic fillers, pigments, light stabilizers, ageing inhibitors, primary and secondary antioxidants, crosslinking agents and crosslinking promoters.

Claim 4 (**cancelled**).

Claim 5 (previously presented). Self-adhesive protective sheet according to claim 1, wherein the coatweight of the self-adhesive layer on the backing film is between 3 and 35 g/m².

Claim 6 (previously presented). Self-adhesive protective sheet according to claim 1, wherein the backing film is comprised of polyolefins selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene and mixtures or copolymers thereof.

Claim 7 (previously presented). Self-adhesive protective sheet according to claim 6,

wherein the backing film further comprises copolymers selected from the group consisting of copolymers of ethylene and α -olefins, ethylene-styrene copolymers, copolymers of ethylene with polar comonomers, and copolymers of propylene with α -olefins.

Claim 8 (previously presented). Self-adhesive protective sheet according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the backing layer is between 20 and 80 μm , optionally including an adhesion promoter layer between the backing layer and the adhesive layer.

Claim 9 (previously presented). Self-adhesive protective sheet according to claim 1, wherein said backing layer comprises at least one light stabilizer in an amount of at least 0.15% by weight and/or titanium dioxide, in an amount of from 5 to 15% by weight.

Claim 10 (previously presented). Self-adhesive protective sheet according to at claim 1, having a UV transmittance in the wavelength region from 290 to 360 nm of less than 1%.

Claim 11 (previously presented) A method for protecting freshly painted surfaces of cars or car parts during assembly protection or transit , which comprises covering said surfaces with the protective sheet of claim 1.

Claim 12 (previously presented). A method for protecting sensitive paint, metal, plastic or glass surfaces , which comprises covering said surfaces with the protective sheet of claim 1.

Claim 13 (previously presented). The self-adhesive protective sheet of claim 1, wherein said isoprene content of said butyl rubber is up to 1.2 mole per cent.

Claim 14 (previously presented). The self-adhesive protective sheet of claim 3, wherein said light stabilizers are in the form of UV-absorbing sterically hindered amines (HALS).

Claim 15 (previously presented). The self-adhesive protective sheet of claim 3, wherein said ageing inhibitors are lactones.

Claim 16 (**cancelled**).

Claim 17 (previously presented). The self-adhesive protective sheet of claim 1, wherein said amount of elastomers is below 10 parts per 100 parts by weight of butyl rubber.

Claim 18 (previously presented). The self-adhesive protective sheet of claim 1, wherein said coatweight is between 8 and 20 g/m².

Claim 19 (previously presented). The self-adhesive protective sheet of claim 1, wherein said elastomers are polyolefin copolymers selected from the group consisting of EPM or EPDM.